

B3
Cont TCGACAGAACCTCCACCTCCAGAACCTCCACCTCC 3' (SEQ ID NO:13)). The
plasmid pCDM8-H-IL-6-(2) was obtained.--

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 6 and 10, without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter disclosed therein.

Please replace claims 1-3 and 11 as follows:

Sub 31
1. (Twice Amended) A conjugate comprising two polypeptides with a mutual affinity, one polypeptide being a cytokine receptor, or subunit thereof, and the other polypeptide being a cytokine, or subunit thereof, as ligand and the polypeptides being linked with each other via a polypeptide linker.

D4
2. (Twice Amended) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the receptor is a subunit of a cytokine receptor and binds to said ligand.

3. (Twice Amended) The conjugate according to claim 1, wherein the cytokine is a subunit of a cytokine and binds to said receptor.

Sub 31
D5 11. (Amended) A method for influencing the interaction between proteins comprising incubating the conjugate according to any one of claims 1 to 4 or the expression plasmid according to claim 8 with cells and determining said interaction.

Please add the following new claim 12:

D6 Sub 3 --12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the cells are stem cells.--